

---

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

This final environmental impact statement (FEIS) is prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for Newmont Mining Corporation's proposed Leeville Project located in northern Nevada. The FEIS contains the Agency Preferred Alternative, a record of written and verbal comments received on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), an errata that corrects text, tables, and figures contained in the DEIS, and Newmont's Mitigation Plan for the Leeville Project (**Appendix A**). The previously distributed DEIS along with this document constitute the FEIS for the Leeville Project.

The Leeville Project DEIS was distributed for public comment on March 1, 2002, which initiated a 60-day public comment period. BLM received written comments and held one public meeting during the comment period, which ended April 29, 2002. Neither written comments nor questions raised during the public meeting identified the need for major changes in the DEIS. The DEIS has not been reprinted; therefore, this FEIS document must be read in conjunction with the DEIS.

The Agency Preferred Alternative is described in Chapter 2 of this document. Minor revisions to portions of the text and selected figures and tables in the DEIS are included in the Errata section (Chapter 3) of this FEIS. All comment letters received during the public comment period and responses to the comments are included in Chapter 4. References for this FEIS are listed in Chapter 5.

The FEIS also includes Newmont's Leeville Project Mitigation Plan as **Appendix A** which addresses impacts described in the DEIS and those identified through public comments. The Mitigation Plan was developed in conjunction with BLM. The Plan is comprehensive and includes mitigation measures for environmental effects that occur regardless of whether the impact occurs on private or public land. Mitigation measures included in the Plan provide for expansion of monitoring activities to account for potential impacts from the Leeville Project.